

**Mike Burns**

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**From:** John Anderson  
**Sent:** Friday, December 09, 2011 3:19 PM  
**To:** Mike Burns  
**Subject:** FW: Vote Counting at Egyptian Embassy Monday

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**From:** John Anderson  
**Sent:** Friday, December 09, 2011 2:50 PM  
**To:** 'dmarchese@wtopnews.com'  
**Subject:** Vote Counting at Egyptian Embassy Monday

Hi Darci,

Hope this finds you well. As you know, Egypt is in the midst of an extraordinary democratic transformation, and the beginning of voting in the second round of parliamentary elections starts in Egypt next week. A small but important window on that will occur in Washington on Monday, when absentee ballots cast by Egyptians who live in the United States will be opened at the Egyptian Embassy in Washington, and the process of counting them will commence. You are invited to attend.

Egyptian Ambassador Sameh Shoukry, who for Americans has been one Egypt's most public and eloquent spokesman about the changes that are occurring in his country, will be on hand to watch the counting unfold and will be available to talk to the media. Officials from several US NGOs, including the National Democratic Institute and the International Republican Institute, also will attend.

An RSVP is not necessary, but it would be a great help if you could email the press officer at the embassy, Mahmoud e El Ashmawy, to let him know you are coming. His contacts are below. I also am happy to answer any questions or to help facilitate your coverage. Have a great weekend.-

**WHAT:** Coverage of second round balloting at the Egyptian Embassy

**WHEN:** Monday, December 12, 2001, 3:45 pm

**WHERE:** The Egyptian Embassy, 3521 International Court, NW (Near Van Ness and Reno)

**CONTACT:** Mahmoud El Ashmawy; email: [m\\_elashmawy@hotmail.com](mailto:m_elashmawy@hotmail.com); cell 202-615-2816

John Ward Anderson/Podesta Group; email: [janderson@podesta.com](mailto:janderson@podesta.com); cell 240-393-0982

**Election Background:** Egypt's 27 governorates are in the process of voting for the two houses of the country's parliament. The poll for the lower house of parliament – "the people's parliament" – is staggered across three dates with nine governorates voting in each round. The first round took place on November 28 and included the major urban centers of Cairo and Alexandria. The second round will occur on December 14 and will feature Giza (the area of Cairo on the west bank of the Nile), Suez and the important upper Egyptian cities of Aswan and Sohag. The final round will take place on January 3 and will include the whole of the Sinai peninsula as well as Egypt's western desert and parts of the

Nile delta. Seven days after each round, run-off elections will be held for constituencies where no individual candidate achieved 50% of the vote. The elections' final results will be announced by January 13.

The lower house of parliament will be tasked with forming a special constitutional assembly that will draw up a new constitution in 2012 and thus shape Egypt's political future for years to come.

*The Podesta Group provides representation to the Government of Egypt. Additional information is on file at the US Justice Department.*

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